FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY: UNCLASSIFIED PRIORITY: AIR POUCH

TO: Department of State

755.11/1-2450

FROM: BRUSSELS 72, January 24, 1950

REF: Despatches Nos. 53, Jan. 17 and 68 Jan. 9, 1950

SUBJECT: POPULAR CONSULTATION

1650 138
3

For Dept. use only.
RECD FEB 1
ACTION EUR
INFO DCR OLI
scm

EUR INDEX RMW

755.11/1-2450

Following occurred in Chamber debate of January 19:

1. Van Cauwelaert, President of the Chamber, announced in effect that vote on popular consultation would occur during the first week in February. This may mean popular consultation will occur during first week of March as it will probably take place within forty days after becoming law. Buset, Socialist leader, estimates popular consultation will occur first Sunday in March (March 5).

2. By vote of 108-88, Chamber decided popular consultation was constitutional.

3. Joris, a Liberal Antwerp deputy, announced that he would join the minority of Liberal deputies who will vote for popular consultation. He still hopes that the King will "effac- himself" (s'effacer).

During his speech he said that in 1945 the Americans and more particularly the British were opposed to the King's return and that Belgium was then dependent on America for many things. He stated that at the time he was called into Van Acker's office and shown certain documents with marginal notes which explained the interventions of the English and the Americans and that these documents made him and certain others decide to temporarily or permanently oppose the King's return. He added that today no one knew the attitude of the English or the Americans towards the return of the King, but that there had been interventions by the Allies in 1945. There was practically no comment on this part of his speech.

Chalmers B. Wood,
Third Secretary of Embassy

CBWood:mh
File 361.1

FAP

FEB 14 1950

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY J.L. SMITH DATE NOV 19 1982

RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
FOIA (b)( ) FOIA EXEMPTIONS

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must act on this permanent record copy & DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.